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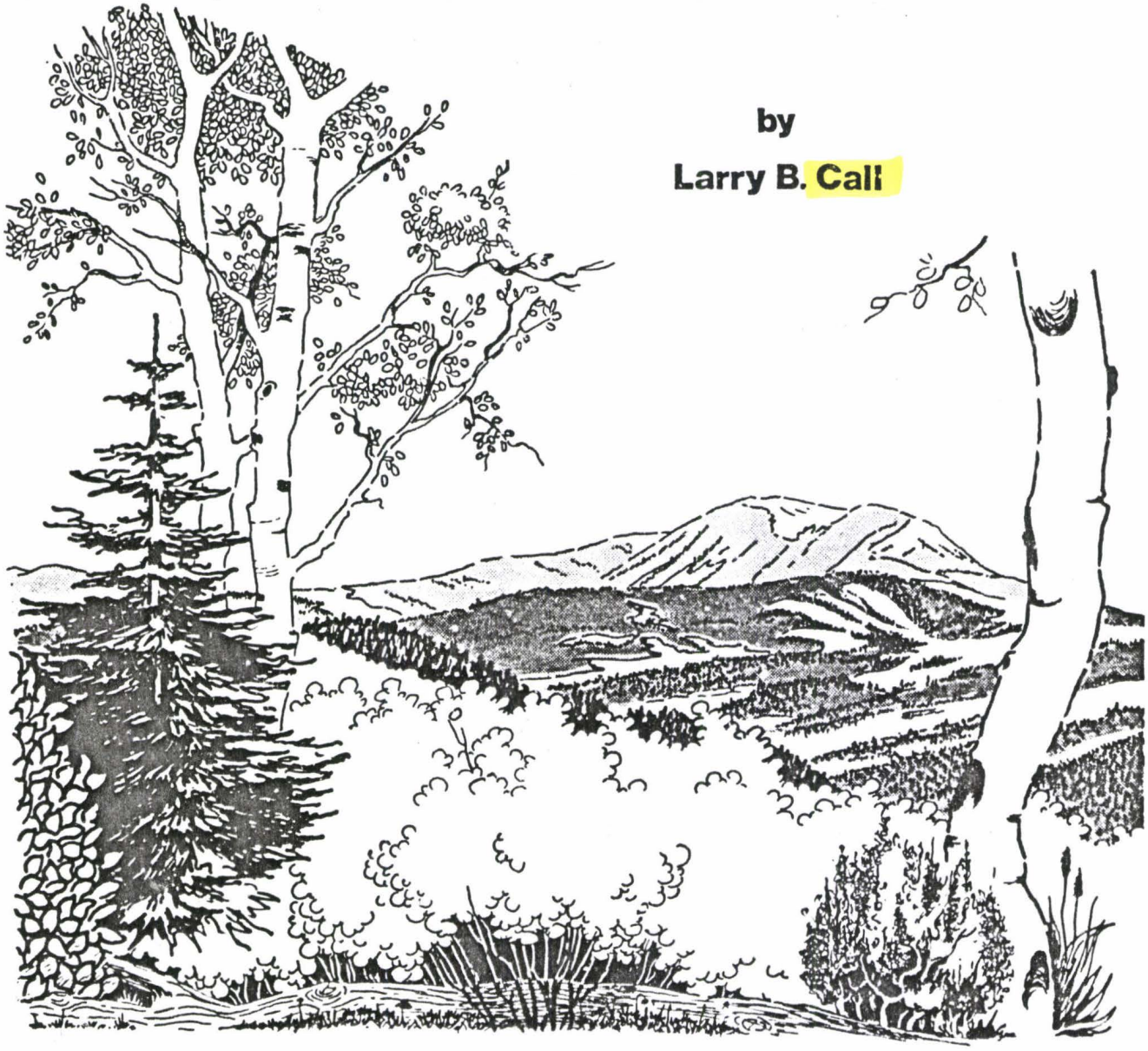
IDENTIFYING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND ESTABLISHING DEVELOPMENT TYPES AND INTENSITIES OF USE FOR THE McCOY CREEK WATERSHED AREA

by

Larry B. Call



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IDENTIFYING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND ESTABLISHING DEVELOPMENT TYPES AND INTENSITIES OF USE FOR THE MCCOY CREEK WATERSHED AREA

CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST
Bonneville County, Idaho

by

Larry B. Call

Abstract: This is an assessment of a comprehensive analysis for the identification and development of recreation resource opportunities in the McCoy Creek Watershed area of the Caribou National Forest. The analysis establishes the viable opportunity range and management direction for recreation use as prescribed in the various management prescriptions outlined in the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The Caribou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (the Plan) was approved in September of 1985. The Plan established management direction for the administration and development of Forest lands and resources for a 10- to 15-year period. The purpose of this study is to establish the range of recreation activity and development compatible with management prescriptions assigned to the land base of McCoy Creek Watershed (often referred to as Caribou Basin) by the Plan. The information collected will be used to guide implementation of recreation access, use, and development in the area, insuring compliance with the goals and objectives of the Plan.

It is intended that this study act as a model for establishing optimum levels of recreation activities within the various management prescriptions throughout the Caribou National Forest and the Curlew National Grassland.

B. THE STUDY AREA

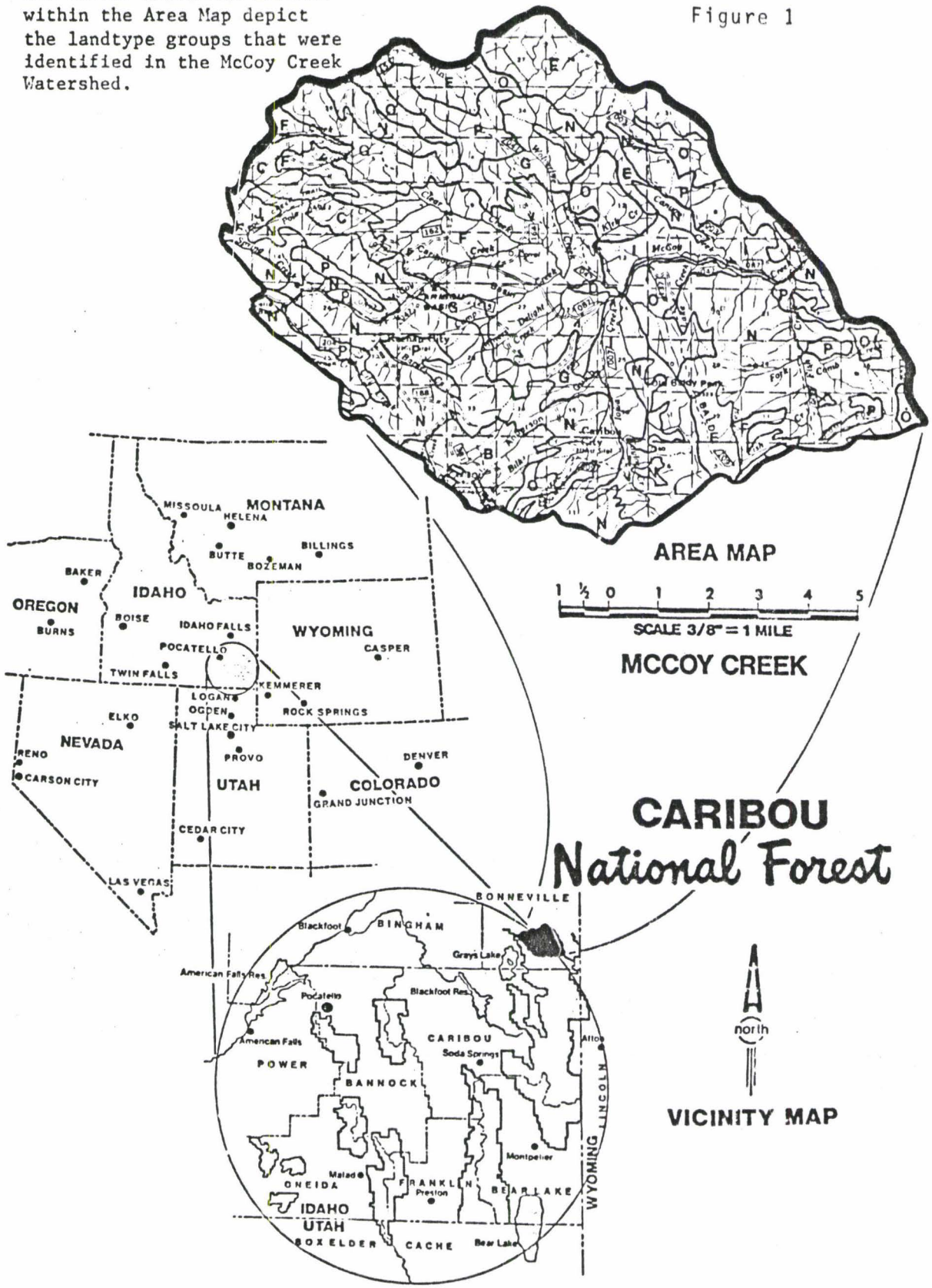
The study area is that portion of the McCoy Creek Watershed which is administered by the Caribou National Forest. The north and east boundaries of the area are adjacent to lands administered by the Targhee National Forest. The study area includes 57,054 acres of National Forest System land, and 240 acres of patented mining claims on or near the summit of Caribou Mountain. Area elevations range from less than 5,800 feet along McCoy Creek to 9,803 feet on Caribou Mountain.

Major vegetative cover types of the McCoy Creek Watershed are lodgepole pine old-growth and sawtimber (29 percent), mountain brush (21 percent), sage-grass (20 percent), other conifer old-growth and sawtimber (11 percent), aspen (8 percent), Douglas-fir old-growth and sawtimber (6 percent), and noncommercial timber (5 percent). Past fire activity and other vegetation management practices have led to plant succession which favors brush, aspen, and scrub conifer. Only about 13 percent of the timber stand acreage is suitable for intensive timber management emphasis. Mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir bark beetle, spruce budworm, and several timber diseases have impacted the area's timber stands.

Sage grouse, ruffed grouse, deer, elk, and other wildlife species are present during the late spring and summer months. Almost all wildlife migrate from this area and winter elsewhere. The Idaho Fish and Game Department has reported that populations of moose are of the greatest density in and adjacent to the study area of any location in the State of Idaho. They also report more elk are harvested from the area annually than from any other area in the southern part of the State.

The darker lines and letters within the Area Map depict the landtype groups that were identified in the McCoy Creek Watershed.

Figure 1



Analysis of area resources during the development of the Plan determined that most of the McCoy Creek Watershed is not capable of sustaining many activities associated with intensive resource management. Comments received from public reviews of the Plan expressed concern for the fragile nature of this largely undeveloped area. Several individuals and environmental groups supported wilderness designation for much of the study area to protect or remove it from any possible future resource development and/or environmental impacts. The Idaho State Department of Fish and Game asked that road development in the two former RARE II (1/) roadless areas be curtailed, or, if any roads are developed, that they be limited to single purpose, low standard access routes which would be closed after that use is concluded.

C. USE HISTORY

Southeastern Idaho, in which the McCoy Creek Watershed is located, was a popular hunting ground for many Indian tribes. Unfortunately for these early hunters, the area was located at an important crossroads of travel routes from the Great Plains to the West Coast, and from the Northwest and Canadian regions in the north to the Spanish country to the south. This strategic location became the scene of many violent clashes between transitory and local Indian tribes. Resident Indians were of the Shoshonean Nation, especially the Shoshoni, Bannocks and Lemhi tribes. Hunting and war parties of the Nez Perces, Absorokas, Sioux, Diggers, Utes, Arapahoes, and Piutes often frequented and/or traversed the area.

The first white men to visit the study area, starting in about 1811, were explorers and trappers. Records left by Wyeth, Bonneville, Bridger, Stuart, Hunt, Ogden, Russell, Goodheart, Fremont, Lander, Farnham, and others, mention visiting this part of southeastern Idaho. By 1835, beaver and buffalo populations had dropped to the point that many trappers said it was no longer fit for white men to live in. Less critical trappers and traders, however, continued to work the area and trade with the Indians. To Indian and white men, game meant life itself: food, clothing, and a basis for industry. As growing numbers of settlers and wagon trains impacted the area, wildlife populations declined. This trend continued into the 1930's when management efforts started to show improvements to the situation.

The historic gold mining on Caribou Mountain brought fame and the name to the Caribou National Forest and Caribou County, Idaho. Placer gold was discovered on McCoy Creek in September of 1870, by F.S. Babcock, F. McCoy, and Jesse "Carriboo Jack" Fairchild, from whom the name "Caribou" originated. This discovery started

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1/ Roadless Area Resource Evaluation study conducted by the USDA

a gold rush which soon resulted in placer gold being found in Iowa Creek, Anderson Creek, City Creek, Barnes Creek and Bilk Creek. Before the end of 1870, the mining town of Keenan was established, with a population of more that 500 and a "Chinatown" located a short distance below it having an additional population of about 400. Iowa Bar, later known as "Caribou City," was also established in 1870 and credited with a population of 1500 people by the end of the decade. Today, little is left of these once thriving mining towns except some rock foundations.

Quartz mining developed on the ledges of Caribou Mountain in about 1875 flourished for many years with sporadic activity continuing into the 1940's. Placer mining reached a low ebb by 1900 but has continued through the years.

Cattle and sheep have grazed within Caribou Basin since about 1880, and played a key roll in the development and settling of this part of the West.

D. EXISTING MANAGEMENT DIRECTION & COMMITMENTS

Recognizing the resource limitations and public concerns, Forest managers scheduled no timber harvest or road construction into the areas formerly known as the Bear Creek and Caribou City Roadless Areas during the first generation of Plan implementation (10 to 15 years). This involves 42,469 acres, or about 74 percent of the study area. Some of the more accessible timber stands, with high rates of mortality, were opened to fuelwood gathering during the mid-1980's.

Intensive range or wildlife habitat improvement activities are scheduled by the Plan on approximately 11,500 acres of the study area. A majority of the rangeland within the study area is in satisfactory condition and improving. However, approximately 1,200 acres of the area are closed to grazing due to shallow soils and watershed improvement projects on Big and Little Elk Mountains.

Virtually all the acreage of the study area is under oil and gas lease. During the early 1980's exploratory wells were drilled on Black Mountain and Caribou Mountain, but no commercial quantities of oil or gas were tapped.

Increased gold processing during the 1970's and 1980's renewed historic interest in the area's mineral resources. McCoy Creek has been impacted substantially in the past by gold dredging, which has been very detrimental to the area's fish and wildlife resources. Dredging operations started reworking McCoy Creek during the mid-1980's. There are many gold claims along the creek and dredging continues to be the most efficient method of developing them. Gold panning attracts many adventurous, treasure-seeking recreationists to the area's streams, which often results in conflicts with mineral rights.

Dispersed recreation activities of moderate use in the study area include snowmobiling, nordic skiing, fishing, prospecting, driving for pleasure, hiking, horseback and trail bike riding, upland bird hunting, camping, and gathering forest products. Big-game hunting is the only area activity to receive heavy use. Undeveloped camps along McCoy Creek are used frequently by hunters, miners, and fishermen.

The Forest's recreation opportunity spectrum inventory (ROS) classified 19 percent of the area as having roaded natural recreation potential; the remaining land was inventoried as having semiprimitive non-motorized or motorized recreation use potential. With special management constraints, 7,678 acres of land within the semiprimitive non-motorized type could be classified as primitive.

In the mid-to-late 1980's the Herman-McCoy Creek Road, the main access route through the area, was improved to ease travel for 2-wheel drive vehicles. The upgraded access allows numbers of users into the area far in excess of those of the recent past. Projected user impacts, combined with fragile soil conditions and other resource constraints, make use unacceptable if it is not maintained within the resource capabilities and the goals of the assigned management prescriptions.

II. THE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

A. BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

In developing a set of alternatives to meet the demands and expectations of the user public, several assumptions have been made. These assumptions affect the physiological, safety, social, esteem, and self-actualization needs (Hunt 1973) of the user, as well as the environmental condition of the resources.

Assumption 1

Probably the most significant assumption made in the alternative development process is that the demands of the public have been identified and are understood. From experience, recreation managers have concluded that people can have different motives for engaging in the same activity. Motives for going hunting may include nature appreciation, interaction with other people, challenge, relaxation, and even hunting. But shooting game is not necessarily related to satisfaction and enjoyment (Brown 1982, Potter and others 1973). Proposing changes to the established use patterns and recreational pursuits in the McCoy Creek drainage may result in even greater changes to some recreation visitors. Recreationists are satisfied with a particular trip or activity when pretrip expectations are consistent with what they encounter (Clark and Stankey 1979b, Roggenbuck and Schreyer 1977). If an individual user or user group has developed a tradition of going to the same clump of trees, in the same canyon, at the same time each year, restricting that site's use to something other that what they have come to expect will diminish their recreational experience. Offering other sites for their use may not have the same results or offer the same opportunities, even if the new sites are more suited for that use in the eyes of the administrator.

Assumption 2

It is assumed that inherent conditions of the resource base will remain somewhat constant under favorable management conditions. Although the weathering and ageing process of the land and resource base is ongoing, it is occurring at a rate that makes an insignificant impact on the uses being considered. Catastrophic occurrences, such as wildfire, earthquakes, 100-year floods, etc., would have a major effect on the use and management of the land base, but they can not be planned for because of their unpredictability.

Assumption 3

It is assumed that the technology of recreational activities will continue to advance. Equipment available to Forest users is increasing in variety and capability. As new uses and technology are applied to the land, further evaluations and management adjustments will be made.

Assumption 4

It is assumed that nonrecreational resource uses in an area will influence the type of recreation that occurs there. Timber harvest, for example, may provide an opportunity for fuelwood collecting, which, to many, is an important form of recreation. Holding pens and loading ramps developed for grazing livestock use, may complement or enhance hunting opportunities and trail riding activities. Mining operations, fences, and roads associated with resource development may limit many forms of dispersed recreation while providing interpretive opportunities, user protection, and access for other recreation activities.

Assumption 5

It is assumed that quality recreational experiences are best assured by providing a diverse set of recreation opportunities (Clark and Stankey 1979).

B. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

The five alternatives described in this section provide a broad range of reasonable management options for the administration and development of recreation opportunities in the McCoy Creek Watershed. Each of the alternatives incorporates management prescriptions assigned to the land by the Land and Resource Management Plan. Alternatives that proposed greater levels of recreation development than those presented were not considered reasonable because of the capability of the resources, projected public demand, and identified use opportunities.

Use projections for the individual alternatives are the result of data from two sources:

(1) Soda Springs Ranger District's Recreation Use Source Documents, for Fiscal Year 1985 (RIM); and

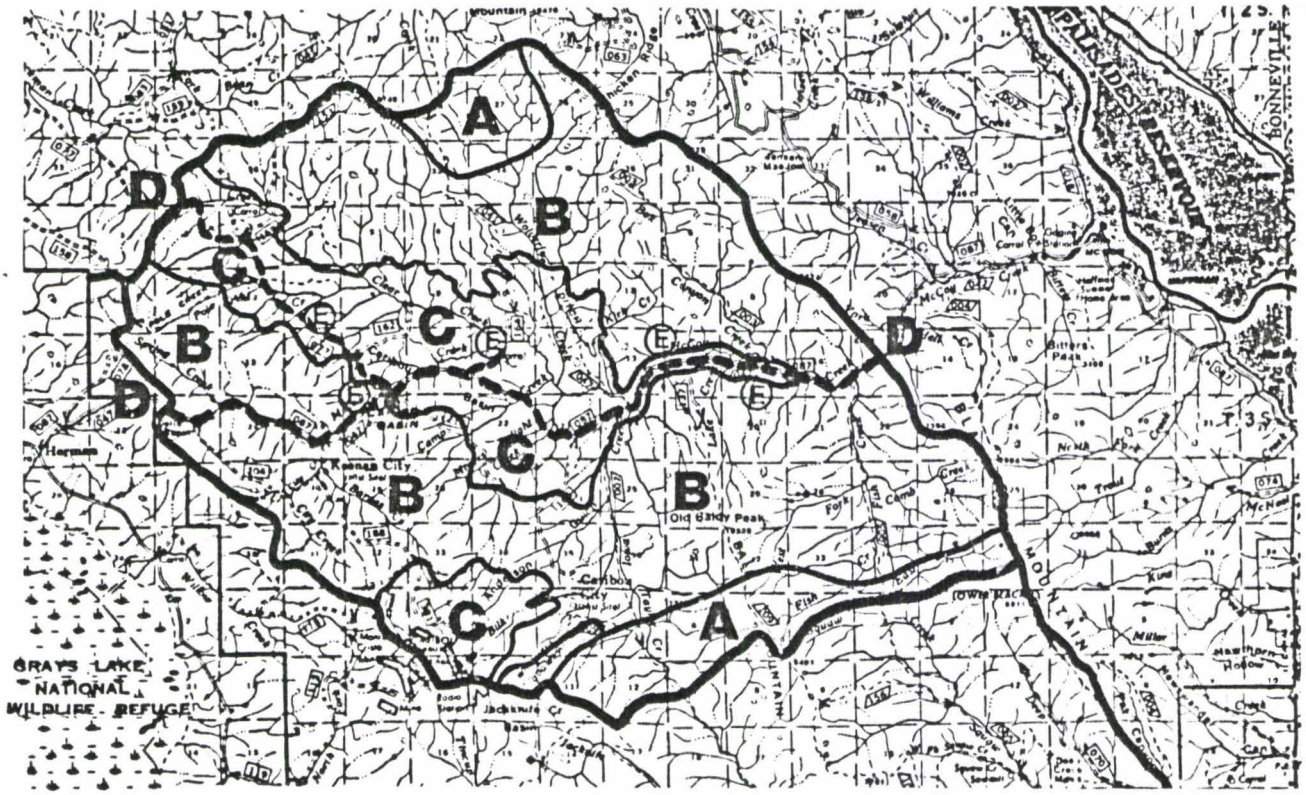
(2) Calculations developed use "Guidelines for Understanding and Determining Optimum Recreation Carrying Capacit ," 1977, prepared by the Urban Research Development Corporation, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, USDI.

The recreation opportunity zones (Primitive, Semiprimitive Non-Motorized, Semiprimitive Motorized, and Roaded Natural) displayed on the map in Figure 2, coincide with the opportunity zones listed on the Recreation Use, By Setting, Activity, and Year, in RVDs tables that accompany each alternative.

Recreation use trends in the McCoy Creek Watershed study area have shown a 4 percent annual rate of increase for the past 4 years. Due to improved access into the area, recreation use is projected

Figure 2

Recreation Opportunity Zones Map



MAP KEY:

- A Primitive Recreation Opportunities
- B Semiprimitive Non-Motorized Opportunities
- C Semiprimitive Motorized Opportunities
- D Roaded Natural Opportunities (▬ ▬ ▬)
- Ⓔ Developed Sites (Alternative 4)

to continue to increase, at a rate modified by the opportunities and constraints related to each management alternative.

1. ALTERNATIVE 1 User Act - Management React

This alternative would basically let public pressure dictate when and where recreation use could occur. As visitors to the watershed establish their favorite use sites and attractions, facilities would be provided to protect the resources being impacted. As a need is demonstrated, management would react to that need.

It is anticipated that the more accessible areas along streams and existing roads would be first to show the results of user impacts. Separation of primitive, semiprimitive, and roaded natural recreation opportunities would not be well defined. Once the carrying capacity of a use site was surpassed, the quality of the recreation experience it provided would decline. This decline would probably cause those seeking a high quality experience to look to another location to meet their needs. Negative impacts to resources and the quality of user experiences would be within the limits established by laws and management regulations. The ongoing resource and management monitoring process would be used to gauge public need and use site conditions.

The following table displays recreation use, in recreation visitor days (RVDs), projected for the study area under this alternative.

Table A RECREATION USE, BY SETTING, ACTIVITY, & YEAR, IN RVDs

Opportunity Zone	Activity	Year 1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
PRIMITIVE:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	2	2	3	4	4	5
	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
-Undeveloped	Hiking & Walking	4	5	6	7	8	9
Area Use:	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
	Camping, Tent	10	12	15	18	21	24
	Hunting, Big Game	25	30	37	45	52	59
SEMIPRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	20	24	27
	Horseback	30	38	46	56	65	74
-Undeveloped	Hiking & Walking	26	33	40	48	56	64
Area Use:	Horseback	30	38	47	57	66	76
	Camping, Tent	120	152	185	223	258	296
	Hunting, Big Game	330	418	508	612	710	815

SEMIPRIMITIVE
MOTORIZED:

-Trail Use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	115	139	170	204	236	270
	Ice/Snow Craft	240	290	350	423	491	562
	Hiking & Walking	60	75	88	106	122	140
	Horseback	238	289	352	422	489	565
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	89	109	131	153	181	210
	Hunting, Waterfowl	15	18	22	26	30	35
-Undeveloped	Ice/Snow Craft	180	217	262	316	366	421
Area Use:	Hiking and Walking	90	110	133	157	182	210
	Horseback	75	90	109	131	150	174
	Camping, General	300	365	444	530	610	699
	Camping, Tent	930	1131	1375	1652	1916	2195
	Picnicking	90	109	132	153	180	206
	Snow Play	120	146	178	213	245	279
	Hunting, Big Game	580	706	859	1035	1199	1377
	Hunting, Sm Game	26	33	40	48	56	64
	Hunting, Upland Bds	75	91	111	130	155	178
	Hunting, Waterfowl	45	55	67	80	93	107
	Gather Forest Prod	536	678	825	990	1148	1314
	Nature Study	151	191	230	276	318	364

ROADED NATURAL:

-Road Use:	Auto Travel	765	931	1132	1364	1588	1816
	Motorcycle/Scooter	75	90	109	129	150	168
	Ice/Snow Craft	281	342	416	501	581	667
	Horseback	218	265	320	381	444	511
-Trail use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	41	50	59	71	82	90
	Ice/Snow Craft	60	73	88	106	122	139
	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	20	24	28
	Horseback	30	38	46	54	62	69
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	728	886	1078	1295	1498	1721
	Hunting, Waterfowl	120	152	184	222	255	293
-Undeveloped	Ice/Snow Craft	240	292	353	425	490	560
Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	105	128	155	180	214	245
	Horseback	41	50	59	71	79	92
	Camping, General	405	491	589	694	829	942
	Camping, Trailer	1485	1793	2182	2627	3029	3495
	Camping, Tent	1151	1381	1678	1969	2353	2694
	Picnicking	326	393	478	567	661	749
	Snow Play	161	195	235	282	340	389
	Hunting, Big Game	671	816	993	1162	387	1593
	Hunting, Sm Game	53	64	78	95	110	126
	Hunting, Upland Bds	74	90	105	123	149	171
	Hunting, Waterfowl	94	119	143	171	192	223
	Gather Forest Prod	266	334	398	481	549	638

2. ALTERNATIVE 2 No Action

Under this alternative recreation use would be an unplanned by-product of the timber, range, wildlife, mineral or energy resource management scheduled for the area. Recreation use would be displaced if and when conflicts with the prescribed management emphasis became evident. Site closures, travel restrictions, and law enforcement would be the methods used to eliminate use conflicts and environmental impacts. In the long term, recreation use would peak as resources are developed, and then decline as use conflicts occur. It is anticipated that such conflicts will not be significant until after the year 2000.

User comfort and quality recreational experiences would not be a goal of management. Recreation consideration would be limited to health and safety requirements, and regulation compliance.

The following table displays recreation use, in recreation visitor days (RVDs), projected for the study area under this alternative.

Table B RECREATION USE, BY SETTING, ACTIVITY, & YEAR, IN RVDs

Opportunity Zone	Activity	Year 1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
PRIMITIVE:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	2	2	3	4	4	5
	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
-Undeveloped Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
	Camping, Tent	10	12	15	18	21	24
	Hunting, Big Game	25	30	37	45	52	59
SEMIPRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	20	24	27
	Horseback	30	38	46	56	65	74
-Undeveloped Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	26	33	40	48	56	64
	Horseback	30	38	47	57	66	76
	Camping, Tent	120	152	185	223	258	296
	Hunting, Big Game	330	418	508	612	710	815

SEMIPRIMITIVE
MOTORIZED:

-Trail Use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	116	141	172	205	237	272
	Ice/Snow Craft	240	292	355	423	491	563
	Hiking & Walking	60	76	89	106	123	140
	Horseback	237	283	343	407	472	539
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	90	110	133	154	184	212
	Hunting, Waterfowl	15	18	22	27	31	35
-Undeveloped	Ice/Snow Craft	180	219	266	318	368	423
Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	90	110	134	159	185	212
	Horseback	75	91	111	132	153	176
	Camping, General	300	365	444	529	614	705
	Camping, Tent	930	1131	1377	1642	1903	2188
	Picnicking	90	109	134	153	185	213
	Snow Play	120	146	178	212	244	282
	Hunting, Big Game	580	706	859	1025	1187	1363
	Hunting, Sm Game	26	33	40	48	55	63
	Hunting, Upland Bds	75	91	111	128	153	176
	Hunting, Waterfowl	45	55	67	79	92	105
	Gather Forest Prod	536	678	825	984	1141	1310
	Nature Study	151	191	232	277	322	369

ROADED NATURAL:

-Road Use:	Auto Travel	765	931	1125	1339	1556	1790
	Motorcycle/Scooter	75	91	106	131	152	174
	Ice/Snow Craft	281	342	411	491	570	653
	Horseback	218	265	320	381	442	507
-Trail Use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	41	50	60	71	83	95
	Ice/Snow Craft	60	73	88	105	121	139
	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	20	24	27
	Horseback	30	38	46	55	63	71
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	728	886	1067	1272	1475	1696
	Hunting, Waterfowl	120	152	183	219	253	290
-Undeveloped	Ice/Snow Craft	240	292	352	420	486	558
Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	105	128	153	178	209	240
	Horseback	41	50	60	72	83	96
	Camping, General	405	493	594	687	821	942
	Camping, Trailer	1485	1807	2176	2598	3005	3445
	Camping, Tent	1151	1400	1696	1953	2352	2685
	Picnicking	326	397	479	570	661	748
	Snow Play	161	196	236	281	338	393
	Hunting, Big Game	671	816	983	1138	1359	1561
	Hunting, Sm Game	53	64	77	93	107	124
	Hunting, Upland Bds	74	90	108	126	150	171
	Hunting, Waterfowl	94	119	143	170	194	227
	Gather Forest Prod	266	337	405	483	560	651

3. ALTERNATIVE 3 Semiprimitive Recreation (Current Management)

Alternative 3 would manage the McCoy Creek Watershed for semiprimitive recreation use. Roaded Natural recreation use would occur along the McCoy and Brockman Creek roads; however, it would be inherent use not management-produced output. This management is similar to the approach that has been followed in the past. The only recreation opportunity enhanced by management for the area would be hunting and gathering forest products. Other forms of recreation use would not be planned or provided.

The peak use period during the opening days of hunting season would be regulated only by the quality of the hunting available that season. Campgrounds, trail head facilities, and related developments would not be designated or planned. Facility development would be limited to signing and erosion control on heavily used areas. User comfort would not be a consideration, however, a semiprimitive recreation experience would be the goal of management. Fuelwood gathering would be the main attraction during the summer months, but use would decline after the more accessible stands have been gleaned.

The following table displays recreation use, in recreation visitor days (RVDs), projected for the study area under the alternative.

Table C RECREATION USE, BY SETTING, ACTIVITY, & YEAR, IN RVDs

Opportunity Zone	Activity	Year 1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
PRIMITIVE:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	2	2	3	4	4	5
	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
-Undeveloped Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
	Camping, Tent	10	12	15	18	21	24
	Hunting, Big Game	25	30	37	45	52	59
SEMIPRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	20	24	27
	Horseback	30	38	46	56	65	74
-Undeveloped Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	26	33	40	48	56	64
	Horseback	30	38	47	57	66	76
	Camping, Tent	120	152	185	223	258	296
	Hunting, Big Game	330	418	508	612	710	815

SEMIPRIMITIVE
MOTORIZED:

-Trail Use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	116	141	172	207	240	275
	Ice/Snow Craft	240	292	355	428	496	570
	Hiking & Walking	60	76	89	107	124	142
	Horseback	240	292	356	428	497	571
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	90	110	133	156	186	214
	Hunting, Waterfowl	15	18	22	27	31	36
-Undeveloped	Ice/Snow Craft	180	219	266	321	372	427
Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	90	110	134	161	187	214
	Horseback	75	91	111	134	155	178
	Camping, General	300	365	444	535	620	712
	Camping, Tent	930	1131	1377	1659	1923	2208
	Picnicking	90	109	134	155	187	215
	Snow Play	120	146	178	214	248	285
	Hunting, Big Game	580	706	859	1035	1199	1377
	Hunting, Sm. Game	26	33	40	48	56	64
	Hunting, Upland Bds	75	91	111	130	155	178
	Hunting, Waterfowl	45	55	67	80	93	107
	Gather Forest Prod	536	678	825	994	1153	1323
	Nature Study	151	191	232	280	325	373

ROADED NATURAL:

-Road Use:	Auto Travel	765	931	1132	1364	1588	1816
	Motorcycle/Scooter	75	91	111	134	155	178
	Ice/Snow Craft	281	342	416	501	581	667
	Horseback	218	265	323	389	451	517
-Trail Use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	41	50	61	73	85	97
	Ice/Snow Craft	60	73	89	107	124	142
	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	20	24	28
	Horseback	30	38	46	56	65	74
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	728	886	1078	1298	1505	1728
	Hunting, Waterfowl	120	152	185	223	258	296
-Undeveloped	Ice/Snow Craft	240	292	356	428	496	570
Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	105	128	155	182	217	249
	Horseback	41	50	61	74	85	98
	Camping, General	405	493	600	701	837	961
	Camping, Trailer	1485	1807	2198	2649	3071	3525
	Camping, Tent	1151	1400	1704	1993	2380	2732
	Picnicking	326	397	483	581	674	774
	Snow Play	161	196	238	287	346	401
	Hunting, Big Game	671	816	993	1162	1387	1593
	Hunting, Sm Game	53	64	78	95	110	126
	Hunting, Upland Bds	74	90	109	128	153	176
	Hunting, Waterfowl	94	119	145	174	202	232
	Gather Forest Prod	266	337	409	493	572	663

4. ALTERNATIVE 4 DESTINATION ATTRACTION DEVELOPMENT

The goal of this alternative is to attract an increasing range of user interests and experience levels. Developed recreation facilities, such as campgrounds and group use areas, would be provided to attract recreationists and complement existing uses. An improved road and trail system would be essential. Site design packages would be prepared for campgrounds and other developed facilities, and funding would be requested to make these projects a reality. An intermediate experience level or greater would be planned to provide a social setting for motorized campers and inexperienced outdoorsmen. The convenience and comfort of the visitor would receive a high priority. The semiprimitive and primitive recreation experiences would be reduced from current trend levels, but a wider range of activities would be made available.

The following table displays recreation use, in recreation visitor days (RVDs), projected for the study area under this alternative.

Table D RECREATION USE, BY SETTING, ACTIVITY, & YEAR, IN RVDs

Opportunity Zone	Activity	Year 1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
PRIMITIVE:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	2	2	3	4	4	5
	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
-Undeveloped	Hiking & Walking	4	5	6	7	8	9
Area Use:	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
	Camping, Tent	10	12	15	18	21	24
	Hunting, Big Game	25	30	37	45	52	59
SEMIPRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	20	25	28
	Horseback	30	38	46	57	66	75
-Undeveloped	Hiking & Walking	26	33	40	49	57	66
Area Use:	Horseback	30	38	47	58	67	78
	Camping, Tent	120	152	186	225	262	301
	Hunting, Big Game	330	418	510	618	718	824
SEMIPRIMITIVE MOTORIZED:							
-Trail Use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	116	114	174	209	243	279
	Ice/Snow Craft	240	292	359	432	501	576
	Hiking & Walking	60	76	90	108	126	144
	Horseback	240	292	359	433	503	577
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	90	110	134	158	188	217
	Hunting, Waterfowl	15	18	22	28	32	37

-Undeveloped	Ice/Snow Craft	180	219	268	324	379	434
Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	90	110	135	163	191	217
	Horseback	75	91	112	134	157	180
	Camping, General	300	365	448	540	628	722
	Camping, Tent	930	1131	1391	1695	1962	2234
	Picnicking	90	109	136	158	191	219
	Snow Play	120	146	181	217	253	282
	Hunting, Big Game	580	706	867	1045	1214	1397
	Hunting, Sm Game	26	33	40	49	57	66
	Hunting, Upland Bds	75	91	112	131	157	180
	Hunting, Waterfowl	45	55	67	81	95	109
	Gather Forest Prod	536	678	832	1014	1165	1328
	Nature Study	151	191	234	283	329	377
ROADED NATURAL:							
-Road Use	Auto Travel	765	940	1143	1391	1610	1852
	Motorcycle/Scooter	75	92	112	136	158	182
	Ice/Snow Craft	281	345	420	511	593	681
	Horseback	218	265	326	395	458	523
-Trail Use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	41	50	61	73	86	99
	Ice/Snow Craft	60	73	90	109	126	145
	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	20	25	31
	Horseback	30	38	46	57	66	76
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	728	886	1088	1328	1535	1752
	Hunting, Waterfowl	120	152	185	225	262	300
-Undeveloped	Ice/Snow Craft	240	292	359	434	505	581
Area Use:	Hiking & Walking	105	129	158	186	221	254
	Horseback	41	50	61	75	87	100
	Camping, General	405	353	412	481	516	534
	Camping, Trailer	1485	877	1483	1744	2019	2485
	Camping, Tent	1151	1400	1721	2013	2385	2725
	Picnicking	326	401	488	592	687	790
	Snow Play	161	199	240	296	352	409
	Hunting, Big Game	671	822	1003	1173	1409	1613
	Hunting, Sm Game	53	64	78	95	111	127
	Hunting, Upland Bds	74	90	110	129	155	178
	Hunting, Waterfowl	94	119	147	176	204	237
	Gather Forest Prod	266	342	413	502	583	676
-Developed	Camping, General	-	300	1197	2235	2320	2417
Area Use:	Camping, Trailer	-	950	1743	3165	3190	3233
	Picnicking	-	307	365	400	485	611

5. ALTERNATIVE 5 Resource Regulated Use

The Resource Regulated Use Alternative places high value on existing visitor attractions to the McCoy Creek Watershed area, while directing use to areas, sites, and/or facilities capable of sustaining the impacts inherent to such activities. Managing recreation use as planned minimizes conflicts between users and insures a high degree of resource and management compatibility. The proposed management would maintain a high standard of resource conditions, enhancing the quality of use opportunities available to recreation visitors.

It is projected that recreation use will increase to the capacity of the resources and then level off to a somewhat constant level annually. Visitor health and safety would be maximized because specific use activities would be centralized in optimum opportunity locations and maintained conditions. Resource use timing and coordination would result in efficient management costs and facility development. Primitive, semiprimitive, and roaded natural recreation opportunities would be well defined and available.

The following table displays recreation use, in recreation visitor days (RVDs), projected for the study area under this alternative.

Table E RECREATION USE, BY SETTING, ACTIVITY, & YEAR, IN RVDs

Opportunity Zone	Activity	Year 1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
PRIMITIVE:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	2	2	3	4	4	5
	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
-Undeveloped	Hiking & Walking	4	5	6	7	8	9
Area Use:	Horseback	6	7	9	11	12	14
	Camping, Tent	10	12	15	18	21	24
	Hunting, Big Game	25	30	37	45	52	59
SEMIPRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED:							
-Trail Use:	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	21	26	29
	Horseback	30	38	46	58	67	77
-Undeveloped	Hiking & Walking	26	33	41	51	59	67
Area Use:	Horseback	30	38	47	58	67	78
	Camping, Tent	120	153	191	228	262	302
	Hunting, Big Game	330	418	511	617	721	831

SEMIPRIMITIVE MOTORIZED:							
-Trail Use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	116	141	174	211	244	279
	Ice/Snow Craft	240	293	359	436	504	581
	Hiking & Walking	60	76	91	111	127	145
	Horseback	240	292	362	441	511	595
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	90	110	135	162	195	227
	Hunting, Waterfowl	15	18	22	27	31	37
-Undeveloped Area Use:	Ice/Snow Craft	180	219	266	324	376	432
	Hiking & Walking	90	110	134	163	190	218
	Horseback	75	91	112	135	157	180
	Camping, General	300	368	449	545	634	728
	Camping, Tent	930	1143	1393	1695	1968	2259
	Picnicking	90	110	136	161	193	221
	Snow Play	120	147	180	217	250	291
	Hunting, Big Game	580	712	866	1056	1218	1394
	Hunting, Sm Game	26	33	40	48	57	65
	Hunting, Upland Bds	75	91	111	132	158	182
	Hunting, Waterfowl	45	55	67	80	94	109
	Gather Forest Prod	536	684	833	1005	1175	1351
	Nature Study	151	191	233	282	327	377
ROADED NATURAL:							
-Road Use:	Auto Travel	765	940	1145	1391	1629	1852
	Motorcycle/Scooter	75	91	111	136	157	180
	Ice/Snow Craft	281	342	416	506	587	671
	Horseback	218	265	323	389	451	517
-Trail Use:	Motorcycle/Scooter	41	50	61	74	87	99
	Ice/Snow Craft	60	73	89	107	124	142
	Hiking & Walking	11	14	17	20	26	31
	Horseback	30	38	48	61	68	77
-Stream Use:	Fishing, Cold Water	728	892	1088	1316	1522	1751
	Hunting, Waterfowl	120	152	186	224	261	298
-Undeveloped Area Use:	Ice/Snow Craft	240	292	356	433	504	577
	Hiking & Walking	105	128	157	183	219	253
	Horseback	41	50	61	74	86	101
	Camping, General	405	493	606	711	846	975
	Camping, Trailer	1485	1813	2210	2684	3101	3563
	Camping, Tent	1151	1400	1709	2012	2401	2759
	Picnicking	326	401	488	589	678	780
	Snow Play	161	196	238	287	346	401
	Hunting, Big Game	671	816	993	1162	1387	1593
	Hunting, Sm Game	53	64	78	95	110	126
	Hunting, Upland Bds	74	90	109	128	153	176
	Hunting, Waterfowl	94	119	145	174	202	232
	Gather Forest Prod	266	343	413	513	585	676

CHAPTER III ANALYSIS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

A. DEFINING THE RESOURCE BASE

The Land and Resource Management Plan's basic unit of analysis was the landtype. The size and composition of landtypes depend upon the significance of physical characteristics which can be readily interpreted to identify hazards, use suitability, and productivity potentials. There are 140 landtypes within the Caribou National Forest and Curlew National Grassland. Within the study area, 32 different landtypes have been identified. Because of the large volume of data, landtypes with similar conditions or opportunities were grouped, creating 16 landtype-groups, Forest-wide. Ten of the 16 landtype-groups are represented in the McCoy Creek study area.

Inventories of the area identified vegetation types as small as 1 acre in size. Timber age classes (seedlings, saplings, and poles; sawtimber; and old-growth) were also identified. In all, 13 vegetation/condition classes were inventoried within the Forest, 11 of which are found in the study area. The ratio of cover vegetation types to forage vegetation types in the study area is 59:41. A cover:forage ratio of 60:40 is considered optimum for the existing wildlife population needs.

To further define the land base, three distance zones were identified. Zone A, less that 1/2 mile from a constructed, maintained road, comprises approximately 22 percent of the study area. Zone B is 1/2 to 3 miles from a road and covers 68 percent of the study area. Zone C is more that 3 miles from an existing road and includes 10 percent of the area. The use of distance zones allows an evaluation of the impacts of road use on wildlife and visual resources, and better defines the economic implications of roading and transportation access for marketable resource outputs.

Subdividing the study area by landtype-groups, vegetative cover types/condition classes, and distance zones results in small, definable units of land called analysis areas (AA). Each AA is considered to respond uniformly to the management prescriptions in terms of changes in values for quantifiable items (outputs, effects, costs, and benefits).

Each analysis area type may not be in one block, but rather in several individual stands or patches within the boundaries established by the analysis subdividing. Table F displays the total acreage of each vegetation type/condition class identified within each distance zone of the study area. The figures in the table represent the total acreage of each analysis area (AA) identified in the study area. Recreation use opportunities and viewer relationships are also defined by distance zones.

Table F McCOY CREEK WATERSHED ANALYSIS AREA ACREAGE

Vegetation Cover	Age Class	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Total
Lodgepole pine,	old-growth	-	624	7	631
Lodgepole pine,	sawtimber	3565	10585	1640	15790
Lodgepole pine,	seed,sap,poles*	147	148	-	295
Douglas-fir,	old-growth	224	1938	324	2486
Douglas-fir,	sawtimber	193	411	133	737
Douglas-fir,	seed,sap,poles*	-	-	-	-
Other conifer,	old-growth	13	4227	1202	5442
Other conifer,	sawtimber	-	516	561	1077
Other conifer,	seed,sap,poles*	-	-	-	-
Non-Commercial Timber 1/		67	1754	972	2793
Aspen		853	3509	314	4676
Mountain Brush		840	8405	3024	12269
Sage-grass		4815	6043	-	10858
Acreage Totals		10717	38160	8177	57054

* Seedlings, Saplings, and Poles.
1/ Timber stands not capable of producing 20 cubic feet of fiber growth per acre, per year.

B. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

The array of potential land treatments to be applied to the Forest is represented by a set of variables known as "Management Prescriptions." A prescription is a set of compatible management practices or regimes which may be applied to the land area.

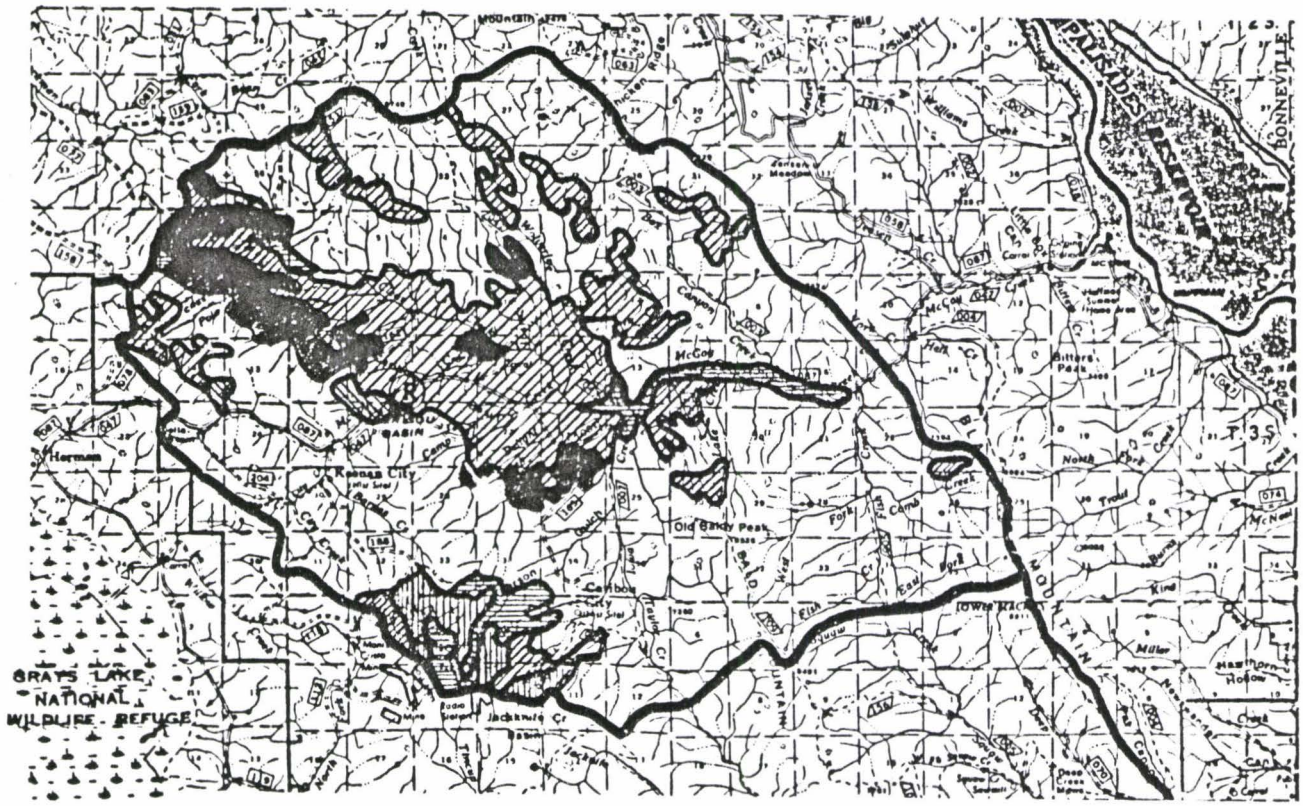
Prescriptions, rather than individual practices or single-purpose regimes, are used so that more than one practice can be applied to the land at one time. Simultaneously applying more than one practice to a land area results in a greater total value of the multiple products produced, more efficient expenditure of money, time, and energy, and the most efficient pattern of land use.

Eleven management prescriptions were developed for application to lands administered by the Caribou National Forest. These eleven management prescriptions respond to the issues, concerns, and opportunities identified during the Forest's planning process, and the laws and regulations which direct the management of National Forests. The management prescriptions are:

- Semiprimitive Recreation
- Roaded Natural Recreation
- Wilderness Management
- Research Natural Area Mgmt.
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mgmt.
- Non-Intensive Management
- Range Management
- Timber Management
- Water Quantity Mgmt.
- Mineral Management
- Energy Development

Figure 3

Management Prescriptions Map



MAP KEY:

- Semiprimitive Recreation Motorized
- 1/ Semiprimitive Recreation Non-Motorized
- Semiprimitive Recreation & Timber
- (R) Roaded Natural Recreation
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat & Range
- Range Management
- Timber Production
- 2/ Timber Protection
- Non-Intensive Management

north

1 ½ 0 1 2 3 4 5

SCALE 3/8" = 1 MILE

MCCOY CREEK

1/ Same as Non-Intensive Management

2/ Intermixed with Timber Production

The 10- to 15-year Land and Resource Management Plan assigned management prescriptions to the land base relative to resource capability, identified use opportunities, projected public demand, economics, and management efficiency. Table G displays the acreage to which each management prescription has been assigned, by distance zones. All the land areas provide some level of recreation use, inherent and management prescribed. Figure 3 displays the application of the prescriptions to the land.

Table G APPLICATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE MCCOY CREEK WATERSHED (In Acres)

Management Prescriptions	Distance Zones 0-1/2 Mi. A	1/2-3 Mi. B	3+ Miles C	Acreage Totals
Semiprimitive Recreation		11,142	4,836	15,978
Semiprim Rec & Timber 1/		202	450	652
Roaded Natural Recreation	8			8
Fish & Wldf & Range 2/	73			73
Range Management	4,816	6,260	499	11,575
Timber Production	1,540	849	182	2,571
Timber-Protection 3/	120	33		153
Non-Intensive Mgmt	4,160	19,674	2,210	26,044
Totals	10,717	38,160	8,177	57,054

1/ Semiprimitive Recreation & Timber will allow the application of timber management prescriptions, providing they are subordinate to and in support of a semiprimitive recreation emphasis. Such areas have a greater visual sensitivity than lands managed for timber production.

2/ Fish & Wildlife Habitat and Range will allow the application of range prescriptions and improvements, providing they are subordinate to and in support of fish and wildlife habitat management.

3/ Timber-Protection will allow timber harvest if and when insect infestations, fuel build-up, and/or visual degradation reach unacceptable levels, and other resources are threatened. Revegetation of harvest areas will not consider silvicultural activities to generate timber production.

C. USE COMPATIBILITY

An interdisciplinary planning team of resource specialists analyzed the compatibility of uses and facilities that could occur on the Caribou National Forest. Table H displays the findings of that analysis. A variety of management activities, intensities, and facilities are listed on the matrix, with numerical ratings indicating their compatibility with other listings. The equal sign (=) depicts where the listing is the same for the lines and columns. An 0-9 numerical rating system was used to depict the degree of compatibility (8-9 Very High, 6-7 High, 4-5 Moderate,

2-3 Low, and 0-1 Very Low). The two numbers within each rating provide a relative range of compatibility within that classification. To read the table, the following procedure should be followed: (1) Find the two activities you wish to evaluate on the left axis of the matrix. (2) Follow the lines the activities are on to the right to the equal sign. (3) Go down the column the equal sign heads of the activity that appears first on the matrix until it intersects the line of the second activity. The number at the intersection of the first column and second line indicates the compatibility of the two items being compared.

Table H COMPATIBILITY OF MANAGEMENTS & USES MATRIX

```
TIMBER MANAGEMENT:                                          Key:  Very High ..... 8 - 9
 - Intensive          =                                              High ..... 6 - 7
 - Non-Intensive      0 =      TIMBER MANAGEMENT                  Moderate ..... 4 - 5
 - Clear Cutting      9 9 =                                          Low ..... 2 - 3
 - Partial Cutting    9 9 0 =                                   Very Low ..... 0 - 1
RANGE MANAGEMENT.
 - Int Sheep Use      0 3 1 3 =
 - Moderate Sheep     0 2 0 2 0 =
 - Low Int  Sheep     0 2 0 2 0 0 =        RANGE MANAGEMENT
 - Int Cattle Use     0 3 0 3 4 7 1 =
 - Moderate Cattle    0 2 0 2 4 4 2 0 =
 - Low Cattle Use     0 2 0 2 6 3 3 0 0 =
WILDLIFE HAB MGMT:
 - Enhancement        4 6 7 8 6 4 2 5 4 3 =   WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT
FISHERIES MGMT:
 - Enhancement        2 1 3 5 6 3 2 4 2 1 9 =   FISHERIES HABITAT MANAGEMENT
WATERSHED MGMT:
 - Yield Increase     9 8 9 8 8 7 6 7 6 5 8 7 =    WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
MINERAL RES.DEV:
 - Open Pit Mining    0 1 4 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 7 =     MINERAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 - Underground        2 3 5 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 1 0 8 1 =
ENERGY RES.DEV:
 - Geothermal         3 4 5 5 7 8 8 7 8 8 1 4 8 3 4 =      ENERGY RESOURCE MGMT.
 - Oil & Gas          3 5 5 5 7 8 8 7 8 8 1 4 8 3 4 5 =
RECREATION MGMT:
 - Primitive          0 0 0 0 1 5 7 0 4 6 4 2 0 0 0 0 0 =
 - SemiPrim NM        1 2 1 5 5 6 8 4 6 7 7 8 7 0 0 1 1 7 =
 - SemiPrim M         2 4 1 5 7 8 9 5 7 8 7 8 7 0 0 1 1 0 0 =     RECREATION MGMT.
 - Roaded Natural     5 7 5 8 7 8 9 7 8 9 6 6 9 1 2 3 3 0 0 1 =
 - Rural              8 9 7 9 8 9 9 8 9 9 6 6 9 2 3 4 4 0 0 1 4 =
 - Urban              6 8 7 9 6 7 8 6 7 8 6 6 9 1 2 4 4 0 0 0 3 5 =
SPECIAL MGMTS:
 - Wilderness         0 0 0 0 0 5 7 0 4 6 3 3 0 0 0 0 0 9 8 0 0 0 0 =    SPECIAL
 - RNA's              0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 9 8 4 0 0 0 8 =     MGMT.
TRANSPORT & UTIL:
 - Trails             9 9 1 7 4 4 4 4 4 4 8 9 8 0 2 4 4 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 6 =
 - Jeep Roads         9 9 9 9 8 8 8 8 8 8 9 7 9 2 4 6 6 0 1 1 7 9 7 0 0 4 =  TRANS
 - Forest Roads       9 9 4 8 6 6 6 4 4 4 8 6 7 1 2 5 5 0 0 0 5 9 9 0 0 6 5 =    &
 - Highways           7 7 2 8 5 4 3 4 3 2 7 5 5 1 1 4 4 0 0 0 4 9 9 0 0 6 5 6 =  UT
 - Railroads          6 6 9 9 3 2 2 2 1 1 5 5 9 2 4 8 8 0 0 0 2 8 3 0 0 2 3 3 4 =
 - Util Corridors     4 5 9 4 7 7 7 7 7 7 8 7 8 2 7 7 7 0 1 1 2 9 4 0 0 3 8 2 1 8 =
```

Applying the ratings from Table H to the management prescriptions resulted in Table I, which lists the compatibility levels for the various resource activities, uses, or facilities that could be applied within a given analysis area (AA).

Table I MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION-USE-FACILITY COMPATIBILITY

	Motorized	Non-Motorized
1. Semiprimitive Recreation:		
a. Primitive Recreation Use	0	7
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	9*	9
c. Developed Recreation Use	1	0
d. Trails	9	9
e. Jeep Roads & Util Corridors	1	1
f. Forest Roads & Highways	0	0
2. Roaded Natural Recreation:		
a. Primitive Recreation Use	0	NA
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	1	NA
c. Developed Recreation Use	7	NA
d. Trails	9	NA
e. Jeep Roads	7	NA
f. Forest Roads	5	NA
g. Highways	4	NA
h. Utility Corridors	2	NA
3. Wilderness Management:		
a. Primitive Recreation Use	NA	9
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	NA	8
c. Developed Recreation Use	NA	0
d. Trails	NA	9
e. All Roads & Utility Corridors	NA	0
4. Research Natural Areas:		
a. Primitive Recreation Use	NA	9
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	NA	4
c. Developed Recreation Use	NA	0
d. Trails	NA	6
e. All Roads & Utility Corridors	NA	0
5. Non-Intensive Resource Management:		
a. Primitive Recreation Use	0	7
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	7*	9
c. Developed Recreation Use	0	0
d. Trails	5	9
e. Jeep Roads	3*	NA
f. Forest Roads & Highways	1	NA
g. Utility Corridors	3	3

6. Fish & Wildf Habitat Mgmt.:

	Wildf Habitat	Fish Habitat
a. Primitive Recreation Use	4	2
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	7	8
c. Developed Recreation Use	6	6
d. Trails	8	9
e. Jeep Roads	9 **	7 **
f. Forest Roads & Util Corridors	8 **	6 **
g. Highways	7 **	5 **

7. Range Management:

	Cattle	Sheep
a. Primitive Recreation Use	4	5
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	6	6
c. Developed Recreation Use	8	8
d. Trails	4	4
e. Jeep Roads	8	8
f. Forest Roads	4	6
h. Highways	3	4
i. Utility Corridors	7	7

8. Timber Management:

	Clear Cut	Partial Cut
a. Primitive Recreation Use	0	0
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	1	5
c. Developed Recreation Use	5	8
d. Trails	1	7
e. Jeep Trails	4	8
f. Highways	2	8
g. Utility Corridors	9	4

9. Water Quantity Management (Yield Increase):

a. Primitive Recreation Use	0
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	7
c. Developed Recreation Use	9
d. Trails	8
e. Jeep Trails	9
f. Forest Roads	7
g. Highways	5
h. Utility Corridors	8

10. Minerals Management (Open Pit Mining):

a. Primitive Recreation Use	0
b. Dispersed Recreation Use	0
c. Developed Recreation Use	0
d. Trails	0
e. Jeep Roads & Utility Corridors	2
f. Forest Roads & Highways	1

11. Energy Development (Oil & Gas Resources)

a. Primitive Recreation Use -------- 0
b. Dispersed Recreation Use -------- 2
c. Developed Recreation Use -------- 3
d. Trails ---------- 4
e. Jeep Trails ---------- 6
f. Forest Roads ---------- 5
g. Highways ---------- 4
h. Utility Corridors ---------- 7

* The capability of the land, water, and wildlife resources may constrain this use.
** Management of use to avoid critical times, the use of chemicals, and existing commitments will be required.

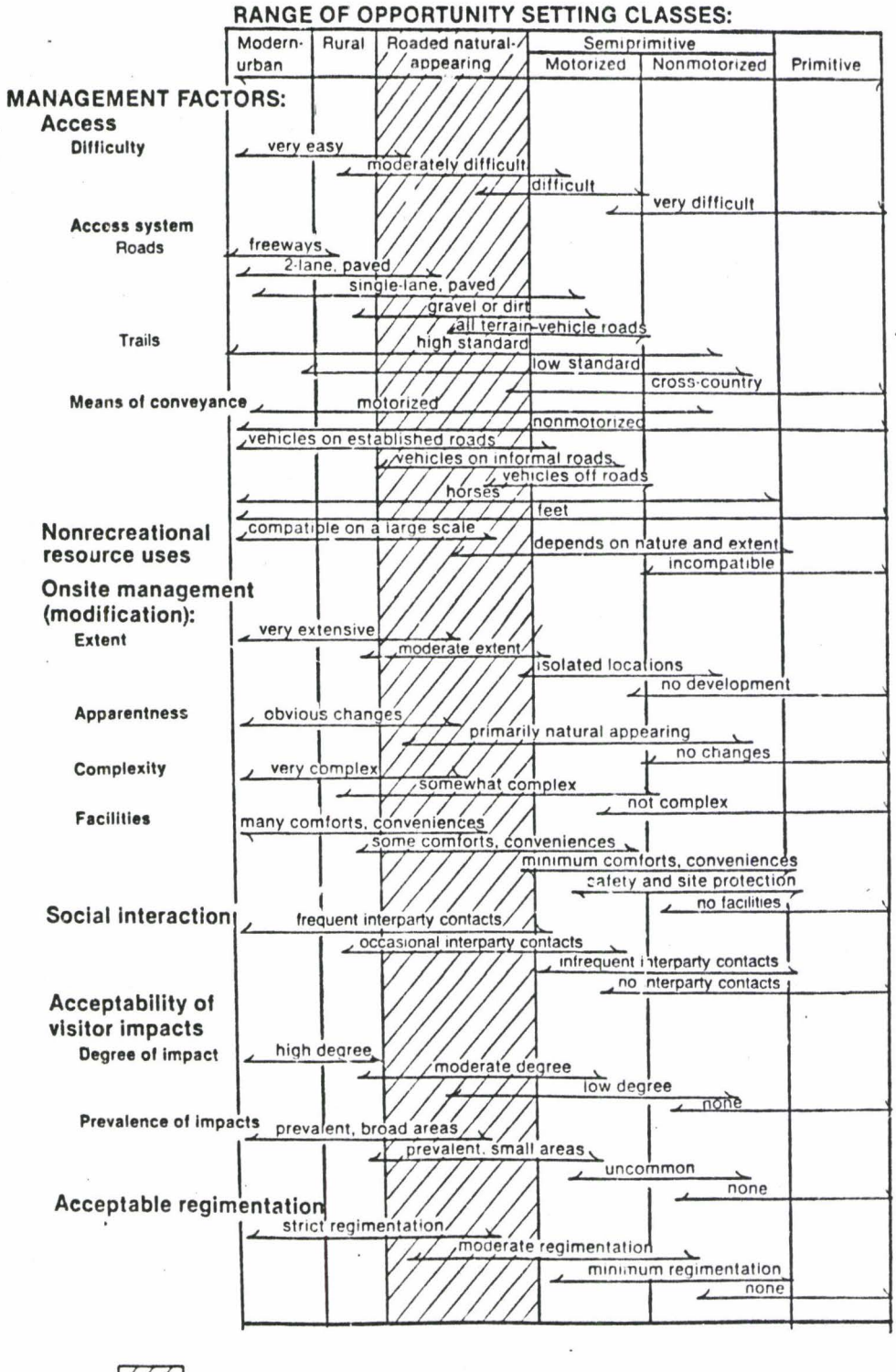
D. USE OPPORTUNITIES

A recreational opportunity has been defined as a chance for a person to engage in a specific recreational activity, within a specific environmental setting, to realize a predictable recreation experience (Clark and Stankey 1979). Because the McCoy Creek Watershed is the traditional location of annual big game hunting expeditions for many area residents, expectations of what the experience will entail are quite rigid.

It is possible that effects outside of the recreation system itself, such as access or facility improvements, may cause a chain reaction, ultimately changing the nature of recreational opportunities and future activities (Clark, Gibbons, Pauley 1985) in the study area. The effects of the improved McCoy Creek road on existing recreation opportunities are not fully known. The identification of changes in public demand and use patterns is a goal of monitoring activities conducted in the study area.

Access into and within the area, the compatibility of resource uses, on-site management, social interaction, the amount and degree of acceptable visitor effects, and management regimentation combine to determine the range of recreation opportunity settings for each recreation use type. Table J is from General Technical Report PNW-178, February 1985, "Influence of Forest and Rangeland Management on Anadromous Fish Habitat in Western North America - Influences of Recreation," by Clark, Gibbons, and Pauley. The table displays the recreation opportunity setting created by specific combinations of these factors. Growing numbers of recreation visitors, plus the management regimentation that will be required to maintain acceptable resource conditions in the future, may detract from some recreationists' targeted experience. Currently, recreation use within the study area is semiprimitive motorized and non-motorized, and low standard roaded natural. Converting some of the semiprimitive recreation base to other recreation opportunity classes, or changing the balance of motorized and non-motorized use, is likely.

Table J THE LINK BETWEEN RECREATIONISTS AND OPPORTUNITIES
(Lucas and Others 1984)



Acceptable combinations for roaded, natural-appearing opportunities.

Table K lists activities that are reported in the Forest Service's Recreation Improvement Management System (RIM), with the recreation opportunity settings under which they are normally considered compatible. The listings also indicate the activities compatible with the recreation emphasis management prescriptions that have the same names as the settings. Activities listed under the primitive setting column are the same as those that would be compatible to the non-intensive management prescription.

Table K RECREATION ACTIVITIES BY RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SETTING

Activities	Primitive	Semiprim Non-Motor	Semiprim Motor	Roaded Natural
Viewing Outstanding Scenery	X	X	X	X
Auto Travel			X	X
Motorcycle/Scooter			X	X
Ice/Snow Craft (Motor)			X	X
Water Craft(Row,Drift,Raft)		X	X	X
Hiking & Walking	X	X	X	X
Bicycle (Bicycling)		X	X	X
Horseback Riding	X	X	X	X
Games (Individual Comp.)				X
Swimming/Bathing		X	X	X
Fishing, Cold Water	X	X	X	X
Camping, General			X	X
Camping, Auto			X	X
Camping, Trailer				X
Camping, Tent	X	X	X	X
Camping, Organizational				X
Picnicking			X	X
Skiing, Nordic (Cross-Country)	X	X	X	X
Snow Play			X	X
Hunting, Big Game	X	X	X	
Hunting, Small Game		X	X	X
Hunting, Upland Birds		X	X	X
Hunting, Waterfowl		X	X	X
Gathering Forest Products			X	X
Acquire General Knowledge	X	X	X	X
Nature Study	X	X	X	
Walking, Guided		X	X	X
Walking, Unguided		X	X	X
Attending Talks & Programs				X

Table L lists activities that are normally compatible with the goals and conditions associated with specific management prescriptions. Activities compatible with recreation emphasis management prescriptions are indicated in Table K.

Table L RECREATION ACTIVITIES BY MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Activities	F&Wldf Habitat	Range Mgmt	Timber Mgmt	Non-Int Mgmt
Viewing Outstanding Scenery	X	X	X	X
Auto (Drive-Motor)	X 1/	X	X 2/	
Motorcycle/Scooter	X 1/	X	X	X 3/
Ice/Snow Craft		X	X	X 3/
Water Craft (Row,Drift,Raft	X	NA	NA	NA
Hiking & Walking	X	X	X	X
Bicycle (Bicycling)	X	X	X	X
Horse (Horseback Riding)	X	X	X	X
Games (Individual Comp.)		X	X	
Swimming/Bathing	X	NA	NA	NA
Fishing, Cold Water	X	NA	NA	NA
Camping, General		X	X 2/	
Camping, Auto		X	X 2/	
Camping, Trailer		X	X 2/	
Camping, Tent	X	X	X	X
Camping, Organization		X	X 2/	
Picnicking	X 1/	X	X	
Skiing, Nordic (Cross-Country)	X 1/	X	X	X
Snow Play	X 1/	X	X	X
Hunting, Big Game	X	X	X	X
Hunting, Sm Game	X	X	X	X
Hunting, Upland Bds	X	X	X	X
Hunting, Waterfowl	X	X	X	X
Gather Forest Products	X	X	X	X 3/
Acquire General Knowledge	X	X	X	X
Nature Study	X	X	X	X
Walking, Guided	X	X	X	X
Walking, Unguided	X	X	X	X
Attending Talks & Prog	X	X	X	

1/ Constraints are applied to use during seasonal sensitivity.
2/ Use is not permitted during seedlings, saplings, and poles stages of revegetation.
3/ Motorized activities are not permitted except on designated trails and/or roadways.

By this point in the analysis, it becomes obvious that much of the terminology used in the various phases of recreation planning and administration is interchangeable. The term "semiprimitive," for instance, is used to describe opportunity setting, use activity, and a management prescription. Occasionally the meanings overlap. To better differentiate between these commonly used terms, the following should be understood:

(1) Opportunity settings are the conditions that must be present to achieve specific experience goals. They reflect the facilities being sought by visitors.

(2) Use activities require varying degrees of skill and reflect the style and/or challenge being pursued by the participant.

(3) Management prescriptions are resource use priorities and constraints assigned to specific areas, for the purpose of reducing the use conflicts and environmental impacts unregulated activities could produce.

Tying all this information together identifies actual use opportunities, rather than just theoretical projections.

The roaded natural management prescription was assigned to only 8 acres in the study area, because they were the only ones having the optimum combination of characteristics necessary to maximize site development, without displacing greater resource use opportunities. However, the Forest's use reporting system has identified roaded natural activity far in excess of the capacity of those 8 acres, because other lands also provide this recreation opportunity. All roaded natural recreation use occurs in the area identified as the "A" zone in Tables F and G. Experience has shown that 69 percent of the "A" zone is appropriate for developed recreation use, while 31 percent is utilized for dispersed activities.

The land's capability to sustain impacts related to motorized activities established the division between dispersed motorized and non-motorized uses. Lands assigned intensive management prescriptions in the "A" and "B" distance zones in Table G have been judged capable of sustaining motorized use activities. Lands assigned the non-intensive management prescription have been judged incapable of sustaining motorized uses.

Because of its remoteness, and visual and wildlife habitat characteristics, all lands in distance zone "C" have been reserved for primitive recreation activities and use opportunities.

Table M displays how the land base of the study area is aligned with the various types of recreation use, after consideration for the opportunity settings, use activities, and management prescriptions is applied.

Table M PLANNED AND INHERENT RECREATION USE LAND BASE, IN ACRES

Recreation Use Type	Distance Zones A	B	C	Rec Type Totals
Primitive			8177	8177
Dispersed Non-Motorized	4160	19674		23834
Dispersed Motorized	2030	18494		20524
Developed	4519			4519
Total Distance Zone Acreage	10717	38160	8177	57054

E. CARRYING CAPACITY AND USE DENSITY

The concept of recreation carrying capacity is nearly as vague as those commonly used to describe esthetic or experience quality. Approaches to define this elusive level of optimum efficiency usually follow biological, economic, or social concepts. A search for "the answer" does not necessarily mean that there is one. It is easy to be caught-up in a process, without knowing the value of its end product (Urban Research and Development Corporation 1977).

An evaluation of the study area resources with its existing and proposed use patterns indicates no major problems were discovered. However, some concerns have been expressed by the Plan's interdisciplinary planning team.

The growing interest to reestablish gold production in the area may result in the loss of use opportunities and the quality of recreation experiences. Although occupancy stipulations exist to regulate the exploration and development of mineral and energy resources, use prerogatives favor their emphasis. If merchantable quantities of minerals and energy resources are discovered, the site specific carrying capacity of the land for recreation use will be reduced or eliminated for a long-term period. At present, it appears if this does happen, it will occur along area streams. Roaded natural and semiprimitive motorized opportunities would be impacted the most.

Soils in most of the study area are quite fragile. Soil capability was the principle factor used to establish the recreation opportunity zones displayed in Figure 1 of this paper. It appears that the recreation use projections for all alternatives for management of the McCoy Creek Watershed are well within the capability of the soil resource. Existing monitoring procedures will be followed to evaluate the effects of all uses. If and when problems arise, use restrictions and mitigating measures will be implemented.

The social carrying capacity of the McCoy Creek Watershed is difficult to assess. During the summer months, activities are usually oriented to driving for pleasure, and 1- to 3-day, single family fishing and gold panning expeditions. In late summer and early fall, fuelwood gatherers frequent the area, but they are oriented to management specified, decadent timber stands, and usually stay less than 1 day. Fall brings a flood of big game hunters who cluster together, on every available flat spot, for up to 5 days at a time. Snowmobiling and nordic skiing are the main recreational pursuits during the winter months, because snow is not plowed from area roads. Because of the very different types of use, size of recreation parties, and seasonal orientation, user needs and site impacts are equally diverse. Use to the area, during all seasons, is concentrated along the McCoy Creek and Brockman Creek roads for social as well as access reasons. It appears that all the alternatives propose levels of activity acceptable to area recreation visitors.

The economic aspects of use to carrying capacity, in the McCoy Creek Watershed, are not as significant as in most concentrated use areas on the Caribou National Forest. The development standards proposed by all the alternatives but one are minimal, aiming at site protection and user safety rather than user comfort. Recreation use under any approach to management would have similar costs involved. Alternative 4, Destination Attraction Development, would require a greater cost to implement; however, it proposes only moderate standard visitor conveniences. The timing, site selection, and related resource outputs all determine the cost/benefit ratio of recreation development. None of the proposed alternatives appear to be excessive in the cost to implement, or the activities implied.

The density of users per acre, for each recreation setting, projected for each of the five alternatives, is shown in the following table.

Table N MAXIMUM PROJECTED USER DENSITY, BY OPPORTUNITY SETTINGS BY ALTERNATIVE

Recreation Opportunity Setting	* RVDs/Acres/Year Alt.1	Alt.2	Alt.3	Alt.4	Alt.5
Primitive	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02
Semiprimitive Non-Motorized	.06	.06	.06	.06	.06
Semiprimitive Motorized	.46	.46	.46	.47	.47
Roaded Natural	3.85	3.82	3.90	5.00	3.95

* RVDs - Recreation Visitor Days are 12 hours of use. Each 24 hour day has two RVDs which may be comprised of many shorter visits.

Applying these densities to the planned and inherent recreation use land base, over a 100-day use season (year average), results in the following numbers of recreation visitor days (RVDs) of use during each 24-hour period (approximate):

Primitive areas ---------- 2 RVDs
Semiprimitive Non-Motorized ---- 14 RVDs
Semiprimitive Motorized areas -- 96 RVDs
Roaded Natural areas ---------- 226 RVDs

To determine the number of people at one time (PAOT) that could be expected in each of the recreation opportunity areas, the following formula (ROS Handbook 1978) was used:

$$PAOT = \frac{RVDs}{\text{Managed Season of Use} \times \text{Pattern-of-Use (Weekday and Weekend Use)} \times \frac{\text{Length of Stay}}{12 \text{ Hours (1 RVD)}}}$$

The managed season of use is 100 days. Historic use records of the McCoy Creek area have shown that 1.6 visitors occupy use sites, on an average. The length of stay in the area has been determined to average 1.0 recreation visitor day. Applying these values to the formula results in an average occupancy number for each recreation opportunity area. The highest RVD projection of all the alternatives for each recreation opportunity setting was used because it indicates the greatest carrying capacity that could be expected to occur.

Primitive Areas ---------- .17 PAOT
Semiprimitive Non-Motorized Areas ---- 1.85 PAOT
Semiprimitive Motorized Areas ------- 12.89 PAOT
Roaded Natural Areas ---------- 30.15 PAOT

These projections are for the year 2010, which are much higher than current rates of use. Assuming best management practices, and the use requirements for all the alternatives would be implemented, the use densities are well within the physical carrying capacity of all recreation opportunity zones.

F. THE ALTERNATIVE SELECTION PROCESS

In selecting an alternative from among the five considered, the "Choosing by Advantages" method was used (Suhr 1986). The criteria used in making this selection are displayed in Table 0, with the attributes and advantages of each, and their relative advantage and importance.

The attributes are quantified outputs or qualitative values, for each criteria, relative to all the alternatives considered. Advantages are determined by identifying the alternative with the lowest attribute value for each specific criteria, and subtracting

that value from the attribute value for each of the other alternatives. The difference is the advantage of that specific alternative over the low attribute value alternative. A zero (0) value is assigned to the alternative with the lowest attribute, because it has no advantage over the other alternatives, for that criteria. The numerical values assigned criteria with qualitative descriptions only, are judgemental values determined by an interdisciplinary (ID) planning team.

Because some advantages are more important than others, it was necessary to identify the most important set of advantages (criteria). The greatest advantage of that set was then assigned a "1.0" value (see Table 0, Resource Protection criteria advantage for Alternative 5, in parenthesis). Using the defender-challenger method, the ID team assigned values less than 1.0 (greatest advantage) to each advantage set, based on their relative importance to the other advantage sets. The value (number) given to each set was then assigned to the highest advantage alternative for that criteria, and used to assign an equal to or lesser value to the advantage for each of the remaining alternatives. The final advantage value assigned to each criteria under each alternative, listed in parenthesis in Table 0, is relative to the value of all the other critieria/alternative advantages. The relative advantages for each alternative were then added together to determine the total advantage for each alternative.

Table 0 SELECTING AN ALTERNATIVE BY ITS ADVANTAGES

	Alternatives				
Criteria	Alt.1	Alt.2	Alt.3	Alt.4	Alt.5
Most Recreation Use:					
- Attributes	28.27	28.11	28.59	33.68	20.01
- Advantages	.16(.05)	0	.48(.08)	5.57(.3)	.90(.1)
Resource Protection:					
- Attributes	Good	Lowest	Moderate	Low	Best
- Advantages	5.0(.8)	0	3.4(.7)	2.2(.4)	8.0(1.0)
Range of Rec. Oppor.:					
- Attributes	3	2+	2	4+	4
- Advantages	4.2(.2)	2.8(.1)	0	7.0(.5)	5.6(.4)
Minimum Use Conflict:					
- Attributes	Most	Many	Few	Some	Least
- Advantages	0	1.5(.2)	3.5(.5)	2.7(.3)	4.0(.6)
Protect Historic Recreation Attract.:					
- Attributes	Best	Least	Fair	Moderate	Good
- Advantages	5 (.7)	0	3 (.5)	2 (.2)	4 (.6)
Total Advantages	(1.75)	(.3)	(1.78)	(1.70)	(2.70)

G. CONCLUSIONS

Alternative 5 was determined to have the greatest total advantage (2.70), therefore, it was selected for management. Section IV describes the management direction prescribed to implement the selected alternative.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE (ALTERNATIVE 5)

A. RECREATION ACTIVITY, SETTING, AND EXPERIENCE STANDARDS

Research has defined three distinctive aspects of recreation demand: (1) Visitors seek opportunities to participate in certain activities; (2) Visitors seek certain settings in which they can recreate; and (3) Visitors seek desired experiences (Driver and Brown 1978).

To insure continuation of a diversity of recreation opportunities, the following standards have been developed. The standards, by recreation opportunity type, are a compilation of information from the 2300 section of the Forest Service Manual and the resource condition analysis conducted in the Plan, and in this paper.

PRIMITIVE:

Activities

No man-made improvements are provided to encourage activity opportunities except indirectly through public safety and resource protection efforts (i.e., trails, trail bridges, signing, or the designation of primitive camp sites). No contemporary activity opportunities are available. No formal visual information service (VIS) developments are provided. A high degree of activity skills is needed.

Setting (Environment)

No environmental modification is made unless absolutely necessary for resource protection. An unmodified natural environment, free of man-made developments for comfort or convenience, dominate the setting. Only controls necessary to protect resources, enforce laws, and insure management emphasis use opportunities are applied to users. No motorized access is provided. A feeling of spaciousness with seemingly unlimited horizons is experienced by users. Any modifications necessary will utilize native materials with natural weathering of surfaces. Retention or partial retention visual quality objectives are the goal of management.

Desired Experiences

Recreation opportunities are limited to those that satisfy basic needs to the maximum extent. Experiences of adventure, challenge, exploration, solitude, and physical achievement, in a natural environment, are important to the user. Extreme isolation can be experienced. Social contacts with other users or user groups are avoided. A visitor has a feeling of being part of nature, free from the evidence of man-induced restrictions and controls.

SEMIPRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED: Activities

Slight man-made efforts are provided to advance activity opportunities through the dispersion of primitive-type hunter or fisherman camps. Site improvements shall be limited to fundamental-type facilities, such as fire rings, rustic toilets, trails, bridges, signing, and livestock use enhancements and/or controls. Few, if any, contemporary activity opportunities are available. High activity skill levels are required.

Setting (Environment)

There is minimal modification of the natural environment in this recreation use opportunity zone. Rustic or rudimentary facilities for convenience of users are provided, but not common. Improvements are mostly for the protection of resources, or to establish an appropriate level of user/site compatibility. The minimum controls imposed on users are subtle. Access points and trails disperse users to minimize contacts with others. Motorized access is not provided or permitted. Any environmental modification or facility developments, will utilize native, or natural-appearing materials, with natural weathering of surfaces. Retention or partial retention visual quality objectives are the goal of management.

Desired Experiences

Recreation opportunities are limited to those that satisfy basic needs to a near maximum extent. Experiences of adventure, challenge, exploration, and solitude, in a natural-appearing environment, are important to the user. A feeling of physical achievement, obtained through challenging non-motorized access is important. Few management controls are evident, is a basic part of the recreation experience. Opportunities to socialize

with others are of minimal importance. Visitors have a feeling of being close to nature, with few man-induced restrictions and controls to their use evident.

·SEMIPRIMITIVE MOTORIZED:

Activities

Slight man-made furtherance of activity opportunities is done through the placement of primitive-type hunter or fisherman camps, and trail development. The dispersion of fundamental-type facilities, such as fire rings, fire places, toilets, jeep trails, trails, bridges, signing, and parking areas, is done to enhance the quality of activity available to users. High activity skill levels are required. Motorized activities are common.

Setting (Environment)

Some modification of the natural environment may be evident, but not dominant. Management activities and/or environmental impacts associated with other forms of resource development, may be encountered. Rustic or rudimentary facilities for the comfort and convenience of users, are provided. Improvements are primarily for the protection of resources and the mitigation of use conflicts. Minimum management controls, such as travel-access regulation, are subtle. Facilities are dispersed to minimize contacts with others. Motorized access is permitted over designated trails, jeep trails, and stable "undeveloped" lands, as provided by the Forest Travel Plan. Mostly native and natural-appearing materials, with natural weathering of surfaces, are used in resource improvements, or facility developments. Partial retention, or site specific short-term modification visual quality objectives, are the goals of management.

Desired Experiences

Recreation opportunities are limited to those that satisfy basic needs to a near maximum extent, as tempered by motorized access. A feeling of achievement, by utilizing use opportunities through challenging motorized access, is important. Experiences of adventure, challenge, exploration, and competition, in a dominantly natural-appearing environment, are user goals. Opportunities to socialize with others are more important than in primitive or non-motorized opportunity zones. Few use restrictions or controls are evident, except in locations where recreation use may conflict with the

condition requirements of the emphasized resource management (i.e., tree plantations, and critical habitat areas). A feeling of being close to nature enhances the users experience.

ROADED NATURAL: Activities

Slight to moderate man-made efforts to enhance activity opportunities are made through the development of roads, road turnouts snowmobile camps, parking areas, intermediately development level campgrounds, and other appropriate types of user conveniences. Informal VIS opportunities are available. A moderate degree of activity skills is required.

Setting (Environment)

The natural environment dominates the setting, but some modification for comfort, convenience, and security of users is evident. Site specific overstory and ground vegetation may be modified to improve use site durability and function, and provide a sense of privacy. Inconspicuous control of vehicular traffic is implemented throughout the area. Primary access is over roads designed and maintained for 2-wheel drive vehicles. Improvements are constructed of native or natural-appearing materials, with nature-inspired color and textured surfaces. The visual quality objectives for the area are partial retention and modification.

Desired Experiences

Recreation opportunities in this recreation opportunity zone are primarily those necessary to satisfy basic needs in excess of the awareness level. Experiences of escaping from everyday life situations, relating to nature, and relaxation, with a taste of adventure, are important to roaded natural recreation visitors. Management controls and regimentation afford a sense of security, while providing a moderate level of freedom to express a pioneering spirit. Opportunities to socialize with others are about equal in importance to the desire for isolation. Recreationists have the opportunity to be close to nature, while retaining a moderate degree of comfort and convenience.

B. LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Management prescriptions have been assigned to all lands in the study area in compliance with the direction set in the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The prescriptions reflect the capability, opportunity, and management efficiency that has been identified for each analysis area's (AA's) specific situation. The following management direction is in response to the constraints established by the land base and the compatibility of recreation use to the emphasis resource.

PRIMITIVE USE: The areas designated as primitive recreation opportunity use areas, shall receive no motorized use or facility development, other than that outlined in the Recreation Activity, Setting, and Experience standards. Recreation use will be coordinated with other inherent resource values, such as wildlife habitat needs, and water production.

The only intensive management activity that may occur in the primitive use opportunity zone, is range improvement on lands identified as capable of sustaining such activities. Range improvement treatments will be limited to burning, with no dependency on motorized vehicle equipment access.

SEMIPRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED: Lands on which semiprimitive non-motorized recreation use is emphasized, are those shown in white on the map in Figure 4. These lands are also designated for the non-intensive management prescription. The fragile condition of the soils in these lands make competition with other resource managements unlikely.

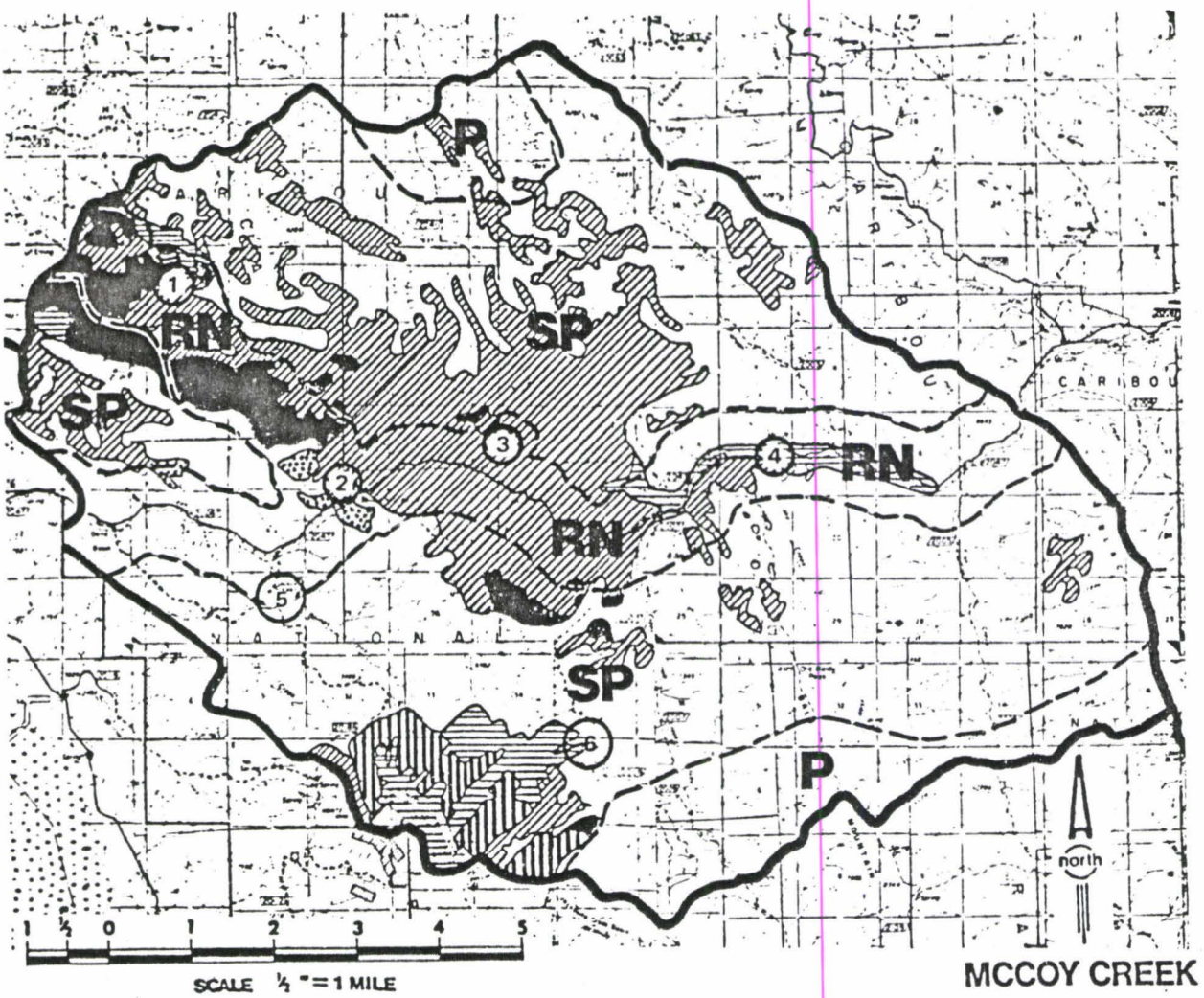
Semiprimitive non-motorized recreation activity may also occur on all other lands within the study area, but it is subordinate to the goals and objectives of the resource management prescriptions assigned to them. In most instances where semiprimitive non-motorized activity is permitted, but is secondary to other resource managements emphases, the quality of the use experience may be reduced.

The effects of recreation use shall be monitored to determine if water quality and critical wildlife habitat are being impacted. If and when unacceptable condition are identified, use restrictions will be imposed.

SEMIPRIMITIVE MOTORIZED: The semiprimitive motorized recreation management prescription is emphasized on lands symbolized by horizontal striping, on the Figure 4 map. Additional semiprimitive motorized recreation use is permitted, but limited to areas shown as capable of sustaining the

Figure 4

Selected Management Implementation Map



MAP KEY:

Symbol	Management Prescription
	Semiprimitive Recreation
	Semiprimitive Rec. & Timber
1/	Roaded Natural Recreation
	Fish & Wildlife Habitat & Range
	Range Management
	Timber Management (Production)
	Timber Management (Protection)
	Non-Intensive Management

Symbol	Recreation Zone or Development Site
RN	Roaded Natural Rec. Opportunity Zone
SP	Semiprimitive Rec. Opportunity Zone
P	Primitive Recreation Opportunity Zone
(1)	Campground (5-10 Sites)
(2)	Campground/Administrative Site (10-20 Sites)
(3)	Trailhead/Stock Facility (100 PAOT)
(4)	Campground (3-5 Sites)
(5)	Keenan City National Historical Site
(6)	Caribou City National Historical Site

1/ Not shown because of Scale.

Impacts associated with intensive resource management. Intensive resource management lands are those shaded or textured on the Figure 4 map. This is a generalization of the management situation. Site specific intensively managed areas may not be available for motorized use, due to slope conditions or use restrictions imposed to protect wildlife values and emphasis resource management opportunities. Some motorized recreation use is also permitted on designated trails, but that use is evaluated annually and indicated in the Forest Travel Plan.

The type and intensity of semiprimitive motorized recreation use shall be limited to activities compatible with the management prescription to which it is subordinate.

Semiprimitive recreation use shall be constrained in resource management prescription emphasis areas in the following manner:

Semiprimitive Recreation Management Emphasis

- Semiprimitive motorized recreation activities are limited to lands capable of sustaining such impacts on a continuous basis. The landtype groups capable of such use are identified as A, B, C, D, F, M, and R on the Area Map in Figure 1. All other landtype groups are available for semiprimitive non-motorized use only.

Semiprimitive Recreation & Timber Management Emphasis

- No motorized use permitted during the seedlings and and saplings stages of revegetation. (See footnote 1/ to Table G.)

Roaded Natural Recreation Management Emphasis

- Semiprimitive motorized recreation will be permitted to the extent that it does not detract from roaded natural recreation opportunities. Traffic controls may be to restrictive to accommodate semiprimitive activities in site specific situations.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Emphasis

- Impacts to riparian areas shall be limited to crossings on designated routes.

- Critical habitat areas shall be closed to all motorized use during periods of critical use or sensitivity (i.e., elk calving, drumming areas, etc.).

- Transportation management practices shall be used to eliminate vehicular travel, if and when habitat conditions fall below the standards recommended by the Fish and Game Department, and the Plan.

- Use shall not detract from accomplishment of the goal statement objectives of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Prescription, outlined in the Plan.

Timber Production Management Emphasis

- Motorized recreation use shall not be permitted during the seedlings and saplings stages of revegetation.

- Snow craft shall not be permitted into plantation areas until tree tops are at least six feet above snow surface levels.

- Use shall not detract from the accomplishment of the goal statement objectives for Timber Management Emphasis areas, outlined in the Plan.

- Timber sale plans may curtail recreation use during periods of harvest, road construction, and/or hauling.

Timber Protection Management Emphasis

- Motorized recreation use shall not be permitted in areas that are in the seedlings and saplings stages of revegetation.

Non-Intensive Management Emphasis

- No motorized use will be permitted.

ROADED NATURAL:

Roaded natural recreation use shall be limited to those lands shown as shaded or textured, within the Roaded Natural Recreation Opportunity Zone, displayed on the Figure 4 map. On all but eight acres of the land capable of sustaining this use, roaded natural recreation is subordinate to other resource emphases. Because much of the roaded natural recreation use is road travel or seasonal in nature, this is not as big a constraint as it may appear.

Any recreation facility development or site hardening, shall be coordinated with the emphasized resource management goals and objectives to minimize conflicts and loses in use opportunities.

The type and intensity of roaded natural recreation introduced to the McCoy Creek Watershed area, shall be limited to facility development and use activities compatible with the emphasized resource management prescription assigned each analysis area. Moderate standard facilities, as outlined in the selected alternative (Alternative 5), in Chapter II, provide a minimal potential for conflict with other prescribed uses.

The circled numbers on the Map in Figure 4, indicate locations where demands for recreation developments have been demonstrated in the past. Opportunities for higher standard roaded natural recreation experiences are currently available four miles east of the study area, at the Palisades Reservoir Recreation Area, along the McCoy Creek Road.

Individual camp sites within designated campgrounds will be developed with a spacing of 100 feet apart, or greater. Group sites to accommodate stock trailers and up to 15 people at once will be provided at ten percent of the developed sites. Spacing of group sites from other camp sites will be atleast 150 feet apart, unless they are part of a trailhead facility. General constraints to roaded natural recreation use that may be imposed on lands managed for resource emphases are:

Semiprimitive Recreation Management Emphasis

- Facility development for the furtherance of Roaded Natural recreation activities is limited to those that enhance semiprimitive recreation use opportunities (i.e., stock loading and holding facilities, trail heads, visitor information services, etc.).

- No motorized use is permitted in semiprimitive non-motorized areas.

Semiprimitive Recreation Management Emphasis

- Constraints are the same as those for the management prescription listed above, and those listed for semiprimitive motorized uses.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Emphasis

- Constraints are the same as those listed for semiprimitive motorized uses.

- Facilities will be set back from streams in accordance with direction established by State water quality standards.

Timber Production Management Emphasis

- Long-term facilities should not be developed on lands scheduled for timber harvest within 50 years.

- No buffer strips should be planned around recreation site developments.

- No roaded natural use shall occur in timber stands in the seedlings and saplings stages of growth.

Timber Protection Management Emphasis

- Roaded natural recreation use facilities will not be developed in timber stands in a decadent condition.

Non-Intensive Management Emphasis

- No roaded natural recreation activities will occur.

V. LITERATURE CITED

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